

Johnson City Parks and Recreation

Special points of interest:

- ~ A Special Gift
- ~ Athletic Division Highlights
- ~ Park Services Highlights
- ~ Memorial Park Community Center
- ~ Recreation Services Highlights
- ~ Kudos Corner
- ~ Looking Ahead

A Walk in the Park

YOUR Parks and Recreation Connection

Issue 4

April, 2015

A Special Gift ...

The many children who play on the playground at the Winged Deer Park lakefront are enjoying some new playground equipment thanks to the Durkee family. The family recently donated additional playground components geared toward 3-5 year old children. The donation was in celebration of the life of Emory Tate Durkee, grandson of Mark and Karen, who passed away on July 4, 2014.

In addition to the two components, the family donated trees and shrubs; and three picnic tables which makes this playground into a wonderful public recreation space inviting to all generations. The value of their donation was \$20,000.

To compliment the space, the existing playground sculpture piece was re-mounted into a brick column which showcases both the Emory Tate Durkee and the Melba Goulding Playground plaques.

On Saturday, April 18 family members, friends, and special guests gathered to dedicate these pieces in Emory's honor. Family and guests held a special tree planting ceremony and balloon release as they unveiled the plaque. The laughter and the sounds of children playing in the background were a fitting tribute to Emory. These playground pieces will provide many hours of enjoyable play for many children in the future.

Mary Ann



Administration Highlights ~

- The Senior Services Division "Tax Assistance" program completed 480 tax returns and provided assistance to an additional 100 taxpayers who did not need to file or who had tax questions. The returns resulted in \$456,000 in refunds and saved taxpayers over \$75,000 in filing fees if they had used a paid service.
- On April 18, Up and At' Em Board members presented a \$16,000 check to the Johnson City Parks and Recreation Foundation. The donation will be used for the new playground at Kiwanis Park.



Did You Know?

Youth Soccer had 491 registrants for the 3-9 age group.

Kickball has 75 teams participating.

Registrations are being accepted for a youth travel softball league. Season to begin June 1.

Athletics Division Highlights ~

- The pavilion at Keystone Park was dedicated on April 10 during the National Little League Opening Ceremonies.



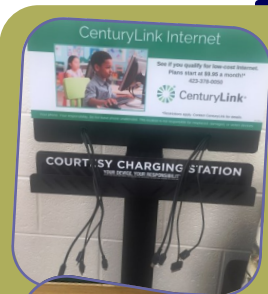
Park Services Division Highlights ~

- New playground components have been added to the Melba Goulding Playground at Winged Deer Park. The sculpture piece at the playground is being relocated to house both the Melba Goulding and Emory Tate plaques and will create a centerpiece for the playground. Many thanks to the Durkee family for their generous contribution, which demonstrates their commitment to play and to helping the next generation grow and learn.



Memorial Park Community Center ~

- A 'Courtesy Charging Station' has been placed in the lobby at the center for the convenience of our patrons. The center was provided by CenturyLink.
- The pre-school youth enjoyed scooter races in the gym. The class has 8 participants,
- Home school PE class continues to be a popular program. It has grown from an average of 25 per class to 15 per class.
- The Annual Easter Egg Flashlight Scramble had 200 in attendance. Youth enjoyed the arrival of the Easter bunny and the search for eggs in the dark.
- Art in the Park was held on April 10 & 11 with 30 vendors participating in the event. Several musicians including Amethyst Kiah and ETSU Bluegrass bands were part of the entertainment schedule. Artisans conducted demonstrations of their craft during the two-day schedule.



Recreation Services Division ~

- The Youth Art Class at Princeton Arts Center has been hard at work this month. Pictured is Evan, a budding art student who made a pirate ship from egg cartons. His creation is on its way to his school's "show and tell" day.
- Carver's TRPA 4-Star Award winning Community Peace Gardens was featured in the April Tennessee Recreation and Parks magazine. The community approach to gardening has been a success and is a model for other communities.
- On Saturday, April 18, Dr. Duncan's ETSU Service Learning class mulched one third of the new trail at Jacob's Nature Park at Sinking Creek. This was no easy task the students had to carry two five-gallon mulch filled buckets across two make-shift bridges spanning Sinking Creek. The work took approximately 4 hours. The hardest, least accessible part of the trail is now completed. Thanks ETSU!





Kudos Corner



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Kudo's to Mary Lee Baker, Robin Dimona, and Herb Greenlee for the production of this year's Johnson City's Got Talent. It gets bigger and better each year!

Looking Ahead ~

- NSA Bash For Cash ~ Winged Deer Park ~ April 24, 25, 26
- Boone Lake Clean Up and Volunteer Picnic ~ Winged Deer Park ~ April 25
- Kiwanis Playground Build ~ Kiwanis Park ~ April 25
- Church of Latter Day Saints Workday ~ Kiwanis Park ~ April 25
- Accreditation Visit ~ Memorial Park Community Center Senior Services ~ April 27
- Youth/Adult Tennis Registrations begin ~ Liberty Bell Tennis Courts ~ May 1
- Fall Youth Soccer Registration Begins ~ Online and Winged Deer Park ~ May 1
- Babe Ruth Baseball Opening Day Ceremonies ~ Liberty Bell Complex ~ May 2
- Park Tour ~ City Commission / Park Advisory Board ~ May 2
- TN Super NIT ~ Winged Deer Park ~ May 1-3
- Mother's Day Crafts & Reception ~ Carver Recreation Center ~ May 4-7
- NSA State Qualifier ~ Winged Deer Park ~ May 8-10
- Dealt a Deadly Hand Murder Mystery ~ Memorial Park Community Center Senior Services ~ May 8
- Walk with Ease ~ Memorial Park Community Center Senior Services ~ May 11-19
- Powerful Tools for Caregivers ~ Memorial Park Community Center Senior Services ~ May 12-June 16
- Worth Hardball Classic ~ Winged Deer Park ~ 15-17
- Princess Ball ~ Memorial Park Community Center ~ May 16
- Awards Banquet & Veterans Ceremony ~ Carver Recreation Center ~ May 21
- ASA JC Parks Foundation Horton Sports Memorial Classic ~ Winged Deer Park ~ May 22-24
- End of School Block Party ~ Carver Recreation Center ~ May 28
- 15th Annual Fast Pitch Classic ~ Winged Deer Park ~ May 29-31
- Family Camp Out ~ Memorial Park Community Center ~ May 29
- 100 Man Walk ~ Carver Recreation Center ~ June 6
- Celebrate Life Cancer Survivor Awareness Day ~ Memorial Park Community Center Senior Services ~ June 9
- Chalk It Up Contest ~ Memorial Park Community Center ~ June 30
- July 4th Pool Party ~ Legion Street Pool ~ July 4
- Lakeside Concert Series Begins ~ Winged Deer Park Lakefront ~ July 9
- ~Join the Fun!